

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 11777 300209Z

64

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 /075 W

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R 290920Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2681

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, XF

SUBJECT: PRC MEDIA ON MOSCOW'S MID-EAST MANEUVERS

SUMMARY: WITH THE 7TH ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE UNDERWAY IN RABAT, PRC MEDIA HAS STEPPED-UP ATTEMPTS TO DISCREDIT SOVIET EFFORTS IN THE MID-EAST AND TO DEPICT MOSCOW AS THE BETRAYER OF THE ARABS' CAUSE. END SUMMARY.

1. COINCIDING WITH THE OPENING OF THE 7TH ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN RABAT, PRC MEDIA HAS STEPPED-UP ITS ATTACKS ON MOSCOW'S MID-EAST POLICIES. AN NCNA ARTICLE OF OCTOBER 27 CONTENDS THAT THE SOVIET REVISIONISTS HAVE 'CHANGED THEIR TUNE.' ALTHOUGH PRC MEDIA HAVE NOT DIRECTLY COMMENTED ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S RECENT TRIP TO THAT AREA, THE ARTICLE CONTENDS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY 'PUSHED ASIDE' BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND A US THAT IS ON THE OFFENSIVE.

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FACED WITH SETBACKS AND DECLINING INFLUENCE, MOSCOW NOW

FAVORS AN "OVER-ALL" AND "IMMEDIATE" POLITICAL SETTLEMENT. MOREOVER, TO ENSURE A ROLE IN FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS, MOSCOW NOW FAVORS CONVENING A GENEVA CONFERENCE (WITH PLO PARTICIPATION) AS THE "MOST APPROPRIATE FORUM" FOR WORKING OUT SUCH A SETTLEMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO THE NCNA ARTICLE, THE SOVIETS IN THE PAST HAVE DISCUSSED THE "REFUGEE ISSUE" AND BEEN CRITICAL IN PRESS REPORTS OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION MOVEMENT WHICH THEY ALLEGEDLY VIEWED AS AN "OBSTACLE TO SUPERPOWER CONTENTION." BUT NOW MOSCOW SEEKS TO PORTRAY ITSELF AS A SUPPORTER OF THE PALESTINIANS AND TO USE THE PLO AS A BARGAINING COUNTER WITH US IMPERIALISM.

3. IN LINE WITH THE THEME OF MOSCOW AS BETRAYERS OF THE ARABS, NCNA HAS REPLAYED REPORTS FROM ALBANIAN AND LEBANESE NEWSPAPERS DENOUNCING THE SOVIETS FOR PERMITTING EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS IN EXCHANGE FOR US GRANTING MFN STATUS. PEKING HAS NOT MENTIONED THE JACKSON AGREEMENT BUT INCLUDED A QUOTE FROM A BEIRUT PERIODICAL WHICH CONTENDED THAT "THE SOVIET UNION PROVIDES ISRAEL WITH MANPOWER WHILE THE US PROVIDES IT WITH MONEY."

4. AS A SIGN OF OFFICIAL PRC ENDORSEMENT OF ARAB GOALS, PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI, ON OCTOBER 26 SENT A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE WHICH PAID TRIBUTE TO PAST ARAB SUCCESSES IN THE MID-EAST, NOTED THE PRESENT FAVORABLE TREND, AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE SUMMIT WOULD STRENGTHEN ARAB UNITY AND PROMOTE THE JUST STRUGGLE OF THE ARAB AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S.  
CROSS

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